ring discussions the two sides expressed satisfaction at the steady and impressive growth in bilateral, economic and trade relations. The Kuwait side assured the possibility of participation of Kuwait Fund in financing any infrastructure projects submitted to the Fund. In this regard Kuwait Fund has so far disbursed aid worth US $300 million (approximately Rs. 950 crores) for eight projects in India.

The two sides will meet to review progress again at a date to be mutually settled.

Drop in India's exports

*589. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports of Indian tea continue to be low during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the figures of Indian tea exports during the financial year 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(c) what is the overall impact on the tea industry in the country as a consequence thereof;

(d) what are the reasons for exports of Indian tea remaining stagnant; and

(e) what strategy is contemplated by Government to improve the exports of Indian tea and to tap other markets for the Indian tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Exports of tea during the last three years have been as under:—

Year	Exports Qty. (in Mn. Kgs)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	216.45	212.27
1992-93	177.89	993.40
1993-94 (Apr-Feb.) (Estimated)	144.21	965.06
1992-93 (Apr-Feb.)	162.00	890.32

(c) As a result of higher production during 1993 coupled with lower export demand, prices of teas at various auction centres in Indian have shown a declining trend.

(d) Reasons for lower quantury of exports during the last couple of years have been lower imports by Russia and other CIS countries on account of their internal economic problems vis-a-vis imports by the erstwhile U.S.S.R. prior to its disintegration; lower imports of tea by Iran, Egypt and Saudi Arabia during 1993-94 and competition from other producing countries.

(e) Steps taken to boost exports of teas inllude uninational promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices abroad. It consists of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian tea; (iii) media campaign to popu-

lanise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol, and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from Tea Board's budget. Tea Board has also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaign in U.K.

Leather Exports

*590. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-
CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume and value of leather exports as on 1st April, 1994;

(b) the countries to which leather goods are exported; and

(c) the first five States in India which produce leather?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Exports of Leather and Leather Products during the year 1993-94 as provisionally estimated amounts to Rs. 4234. 95 Crores. The exports are primarily to Germany, USA, UK, Italy; France, and CIS countries. Some other countries to which our leather and leather products are exported include the Netherlands, Australia, Spain, Japan; Portugal, Belgium, Korea etc.

(c) Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are the five major states producing leather in India.

False claims before consumer redressal fora

*591. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express (Business Express) of April, 22, 1994 under the caption, 'Frivolous claims hit consumers' cause';

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) the number of cases in which consumers have been given relief with the enforcement of Consumers' Protection Act and the amount paid to them during the year 1993 and so far in 1994;

(d) whether complaints for filing false/bogus claims by the consumers before the redressal fora have come to Government's notice;

(e) if so, the number and details of such cases;

(f) what action Government have taken against such unscrupulous persons; and

(g) what steps Government have taken to protect and help the genuine consumers from unnecessary harassment caused to them by the authorities in finalising and expediting their claims?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the said article, the author has described the nature of frivolous complaints which are being filed in the consumer courts established under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and has quoted some of the decision given by the courts against filing such complaints.

(c) As per information available with the Central Government, out of 2,21,131 cases decided in the District Fora, 1.06,281 cases have gone in favour of consumers. Similarly, in the State Commissions, 3,321 complaints and 3,987 appeals have gone in favour of consumers out of 7,496 complaints and 10,014 appeals decided so far. The Government in the Ministry of Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution does not compile information in respect of amount paid to the consumers by the consumer courts.